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## Retaining the Last-Saved Date in Excel

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By Helen Bradley

**I want to create an Excel template that includes a default header. One of the fields should be the date the file was last saved, so the file can be "version controlled" using that date rather than the current date.**

**Peter Marlin**

This should be easy, but it isn't. Unfortunately, when you open an Excel file, the date that the file was last modified changes to the current date. Thus, any attempt to extract the date the file was last modified using VBA's `DateLastModified` property simply retrieves the current date. This seems to be the case for all versions of Excel.

Our solution is to use Excel's `BeforeSave` event to write the current date directly into the current sheet's header immediately before the file is saved—every time it is saved. This way, you can at least keep track of versions by viewing the header information.

To use the workaround, add the following code to your template file's This Workbook module using the Visual Basic Editor:

```
Private Sub Workbook_BeforeSave(ByVal SaveAsUI As Boolean, Cancel As Boolean)
```

```
    ActiveSheet.PageSetup.LeftHeader = "Date last modified " & Date
```

```
End Sub
```

Change `LeftHeader` to `CenterHeader`, `RightHeader`, `LeftFooter`, `CenterFooter` or `RightFooter` to use a different part of the worksheet's header or footer.

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